

Message Text

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TAGS: PCAT, NATO, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

REF: (A) 77 STATE 308915, (B) 77 STATE 307248

1. MISSION MAY DRAW ON REF A AS APPROPRIATE IN JANUARY 11
NAC BRIEFING. IF QUESTION OF POSITION TAKEN BY SOVIETS
DURING TALKS ARISES, YOU SHOULD REPLY BASED ON FOLLOWING
POINTS.

2. THE SOVIETS CAME TO THE TALKS WITH A LISTENING BRIEF
AND DID NOT DIVULGE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR OWN
CURRENT ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES AND PRACTICES. INSTEAD,
THEY CONCENTRATED THEIR EFFORTS ON TRYING TO UNDERSTAND
THE US PRESENTATION.

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3. THE SOVIETS CHALLENGED SOME US ARGUMENTS FOR RESTRAINT
AND ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT US POLICIES. THEY
QUESTIONED HOW THE SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER
RESTRAINT WOULD FIT INTO THE EXISTING AND ALREADY CROWDED
ARMS CONTROL AGENDA. THEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF
POLITICAL FACTORS IN LIMITING THE "INTERNATIONAL ARMS
TRADE" AND THE NEED TO WORK OUT "OBJECTIVE PRINCIPLES" - IN

ADDITION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONAL SECURITY - TO GUIDE

STATES IN CARRYING OUT RESTRAINT POLICIES.

4. THE SOVIETS INDICATED THAT A NUMBER OF POINTS RAISED
BY THE US HAD STARTED A CHAIN REACTION IN THEIR
THINKING AND THAT THE EXCHANGE OF OPINION HAD CONTRIBUTED
TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM.

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